Mayo Clinic Minute: How ventricular assist devices can help heart patients

Robert Scott, M.D., Ph.D. Cardiovascular Disease Mayo Clinic	"Typically, when people have heart failure, what you're really speaking about is the left side of the heart being unable to effectively deliver blood to the body to meet all the needs of the body."
Voice-over	When that happens, Dr. Robert Scott says a left ventricular assist device, or LVAD can be implanted in patients to help pump blood.
Robert Scott, M.D., Ph.D.	“What it does is sucks the blood from the left ventricle into the device then it gets pumped up into the ascending aorta. You're bypassing or doing the work of the left side of the heart.”
Voice-over	It’s open-heart surgery that requires aftercare of the device.
Robert Scott, M.D., Ph.D.	“When these devices are put into patients during surgery, there is a part of the device that exits the body and is used to power the device. The part is called the driveline."
Voice-over	A control unit and battery pack are worn outside your body and are connected to the LVAD through a port in your skin.
Voice-over	Patients who might benefit from placement of an LVAD device include those patients waiting for a heart transplant, or those patients who have heart failure but aren’t eligible for a heart transplant due to age.
Robert Scott, M.D., Ph.D.	“Patients who want a good quality of life, patients who don't mind going through a major operation with the knowledge that afterwards they're going to be able to ask have a reasonable quality of life and do some of the things they were doing beforehand are candidates for this type of therapy."
Robert Scott, M.D., Ph.D.	“These devices are put in people so they can live their life. It’s not meant to put in just to be alive."
Voice-over	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Jason Howland.